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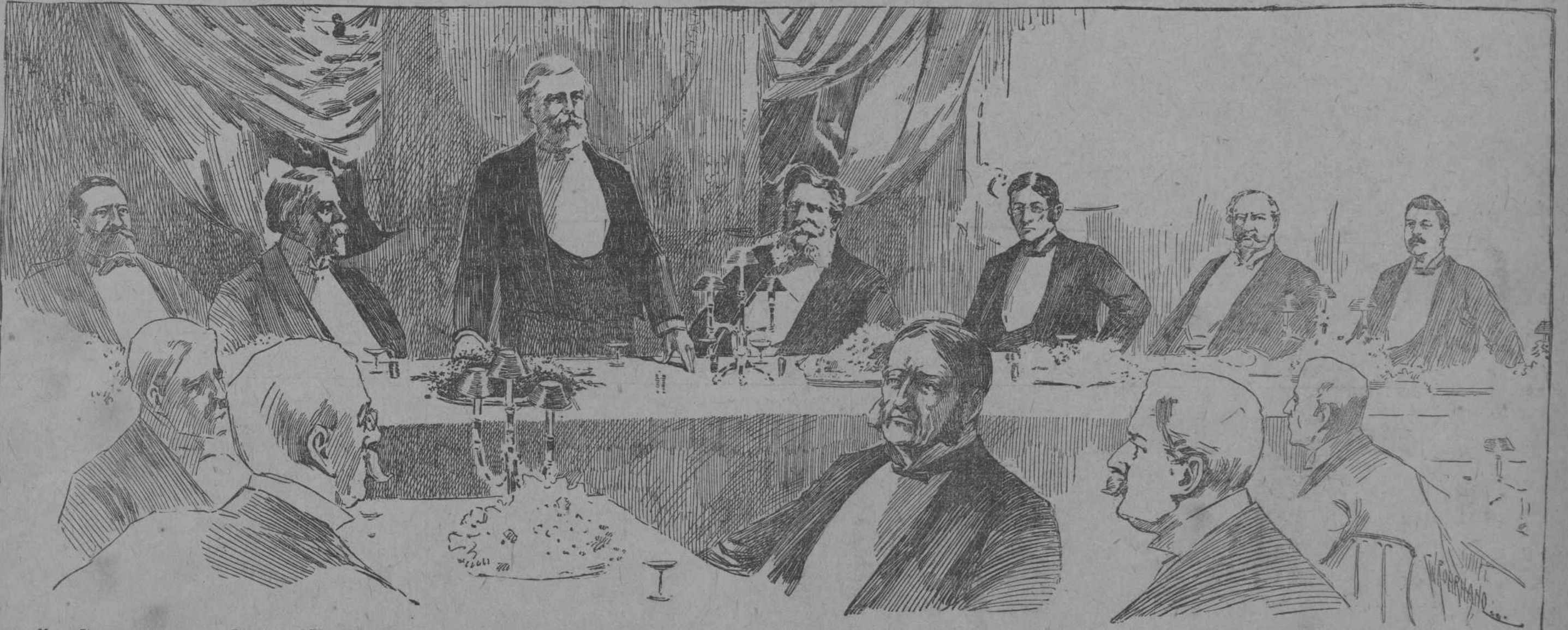
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SECRETARY LYMAN J. GAGE DEMANDS IMMEDIATE REFORM IN THE CURRENCY.



Mayor Strong.

Secretary of War Alger.

Secretary Lyman J. Gage.

Alexander E. Orr.

Governor Black.

Admiral Bunce.

Seth Low.

SCENE IN DELMONICO'S AT THE 129TH ANNUAL DINNER OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

MONEY PROBLEM STUDIED AT A DINNER.

Chamber of Commerce and Guests Listen to the Secretary of the Treasury Explain the Nation's Present Predicament.

Governor Black for the State, General Merritt for the Army, President Orr, Admiral Bunce, Representing the Navy, and Others Discuss at the Annual Banquet the Issues of the Day.

THE speech of Lyman J. Gage, Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, was the feature of the annual banquet of the Chamber of Commerce at Delmonico's last night.

In responding to the toast "Currency Reform; Now or When?" Mr. Gage declared emphatically that some radical change in the monetary system of the nation is needed at once.

But Mr. Gage did not offer any solution to the problem, which he acknowledged is now the most serious of the several confronting the American people. The free coinage of silver, he was prompt to assert, did not assure a satisfactory reconstruction of the monetary system, according to his ideas.

It was the one hundred and twenty-ninth annual dinner of the Chamber, and was thoroughly political in aspect, the currency problem having first place. Governor Black's warning to New York that she was losing ground in commerce attracted much attention.

GREAT MEN AT THE BANQUET BOARD.

Lyman J. Gage's Speech the Feature of the Evening at Delmonico's.

The men whose organization, perhaps more than any other, controls the financial policy of the nation, dined solemnly together last night, with other men, prominent in politics, arms and letters. Before the evening was done the dinner was almost a financial school.

It was the 129th annual banquet of the Chamber of Commerce. The splendid banquet hall of the new Delmonico's was the scene of the pious function, and tapestries, gilding, flowers, colored lights and the music of violins was supplied by way of contrast to the sombre stateliness.

The great banquet hall, ablaze with lights, heavy with the perfume of orchids and roses, contained nine tables; one at the head of the apartment, the president's table, at which were seated the guests of honor. There were two long tables at the sides, to which were assigned the more prominent members of the Chamber of Commerce, and six other tables, arranged with geometrical precision.

Four hundred and fifty men, most of them in the black and white of functional convention, a few in uniforms of the Nation's service by sea or land, a few more in business dress, sat down to dine when the orchestra in the balcony, at 7:30 o'clock, signified by playing that it was time.

President Orr in the Centre. Alexander E. Orr, president of the Chamber, occupied the centre of the table of honor and acted as toastmaster. Others seated at the president's table were:

WILLIAM H. WEBB.
JAMES M. CONSTABLE.
MURAT HALSTEAD.
Commodore FRANK M. BUNCE.
CHARLES C. BEAMAN.
Rev. Dr. ABBOTT E. KITTREDGE.
JAMES H. ECKELS, Comptroller of the Currency.
Pres. DANIEL G. GILMAN Johns Hopkins University.
CARL SHULTZ.
Gov. FRANK S. BLACK.
LYMAN J. GAGE, Secretary of the Treasury.
RUSSELL A. ALGER, Secretary of War.
Mayor STRONG.
Major-General WESLEY MERRITT.
WHITELAW REID.

SETH LOW.
SAMUEL D. BARCLOCK.
HENRY E. HOWLAND.
HORACE WHITE.
WILLIAM BUTLER DUNCAN.
JOHN L. RIKER.

Besides those at the President's table the following gentlemen were present as guests of the Chamber of Commerce: James Brown, Lord Arthur E. Bowers, Hart Lyman, Charles R. Miller, Edward Cary, William Dodsworth and Robert C. Alexander.

The guest table was decorated with garlands of ferns and highly colored orchids. Bunches of the two combined formed five centre pieces, and festoons of ferns connected the groups, which were further joined by loops of sunflowers. The two outside tables were adorned with orchids, ferns and large vases containing American beauty roses. Similar decorations embellished the six smaller tables.

The overhead balcony in which the musicians were placed, was screened with palms, and each corner of the banquet room contained towering specimens of tropical flora.

When all the guests were seated, the Rev. Dr. Abbott E. Kittredge said grace. Major-General Nelson A. Miles was absent. He had sent a message explaining his inability to be present, and Major-General Wesley Merritt, U. S. A., responded to the toast, "The Army," in his stead.

The menu was simple, substantial, but served slowly and with much ceremony as befitted the annual festivity of the representatives of enormous capital and a nation's commerce.

The Opening Address.
When cigars and liquors had succeeded safe note, President Orr rose in his place at the head of the room and bowed low in response to the round of applause which greeted him. Then the four hundred and fifty gentlemen who had gathered to suggest the policies of a nation in the calm philosophy of post-gustatory peace, settled back in their comfortable chairs, flushed, placid and burning incense at the shrine of the Goddess Nicotina, listened.

Mr. Orr's speech was almost entirely political. He began by congratulating all on the Republican victory of 1896, and entered at once upon the discussion of financial policies. He declared hotly against the intelligence and morality of all who believe in free silver, warning his hearers that they were still active in their work for the cause.

He praised the administration of President McKinley and spoke in extenso upon the need of an efficient supervision of the civil service.

He declared that the Government must go out of the banking business, leaving that activity to private hands. He argued for international arbitration, rebuking all who had posed the treaty with England. He

closed by advocating a million-dollar-building for the Chamber of Commerce.

At the conclusion of his address, Mr. Orr proposed the toast:

"The President of the United States." Which was drunk standing, amid great enthusiasm.

Some one in a seat near the guest table then called out in a loud voice: "Three cheers for President McKinley!"

And the cheers were given with a hearty will.

President Orr then said:

"The President of the United States is unable to be with us to-night, but he has sent to us his Secretary of the Treasury."

As he introduced Secretary Gage there was great applause, and Secretary Gage was compelled to stand for some moments till the applause subsided.

His speech was frequently punctuated by applause, and his humorous points were greeted with laughter.

General Miles was unable to be present, and the reason given was that it was improper for the Secretary of War and the General of the Army to be absent from the table at the same time. His seat at the table was occupied by former Governor Morton.

The toast, "The President of the United States," was received with cheers and drunk standing. There was no response, as in England, at a Board of Trade dinner, there is no response to the toast, "The Queen."

The other formal toasts and responses were listed in the menu card. They were: "Currency Reform; Now or When?"—Response by Hon. Lyman J. Gage, Secretary of the Treasury.

"The State of New York."—Response by Governor Frank S. Black.

"The Duties and Obligations of a Citizen of New York."—Response by Mayor Strong.

"Commerce the Child of Science and Its Filled Supporter."—Response by President Daniel C. Gilman, of Johns Hopkins University.

GAGE FOR CURRENCY REFORM AT ONCE.

The Secretary of the Treasury, However, Carefully Avoids the Discussion of "How?"

Secretary of the Treasury Lyman J. Gage spoke on the topic "Currency Reform; Now or When?" He said:

"Mr. President and Gentlemen: I must confess to some surprise at the youthful appearance of this company. My honored friend, chairman of the Committee of

Continued on Fourth Page.

M'LAUGHLIN VAULT WAS IN DANGER.

And the Boss's Daughter, Mrs. Courtney Had Lost Her Diamonds.

LONE BURGLAR DID IT ALL.

But One Would Have Thought a Riot Was Raging from the Police Manoeuvres.

THEY SURROUNDED THE HOUSE.

Found the Missing Necklace in the Coal and the Burglar Hiding in a Bin Near the Repository of the Famous Wedding Presents.

Hugh McLaughlin's eldest daughter, formerly Mrs. Alexander F. Carroll, now Mrs. William J. Courtney, lost a diamond necklace, worth a few thousand dollars, last night. It needed the services of a patrol wagon full of policemen to find it for her where it had been dropped in the coalbin, and to arrest the burglar who was covering near the door to the famous steel vault in her Brooklyn home.

That steel vault has been a source of apprehension to her neighbors ever since it was built, which was soon after her marriage to Dr. Carroll, five years ago. The wedding was a notable one, for the reason that the veteran of the Kings County Democracy was a man of political might in those days, and the wedding presents which were appraised at a quarter of a million dollars, were the safe keeping of those expensive keepsakes that Hugh McLaughlin caused the vault to be constructed underneath his daughter's house, No. 165 Washington Park, Brooklyn.

Dr. Carroll died three years after the wedding, leaving two children, and last month his widow became the bride of William C. Courtney, the Brooklyn lawyer, who is a son of John Courtney, formerly Sheriff of Kings County. Hugh McLaughlin's daughter did not change her residence with her name. She continued to live over the renowned steel vault.

It is not easy for a stranger to obtain access to the Courtney residence, but John Nelson—as he afterward described himself to the police—noticed that an apartment house in course of construction a few doors away offered free ingress to the enterprising burglar. Accordingly, John Nelson climbed up the unfinished stairs of No. 165 Washington Park, sneaked over three roofs and slipped into the attic of No. 162.

Thence he gained Mrs. Courtney's bedroom, where a magnificent diamond necklace lay glittering on a dressing table.

Nelson pocketed the necklace and cast about for more plunder. Mrs. Courtney, who was on the floor below, heard the noise and called up Police Headquarters on the telephone. Then she sped to her bedroom and discovered the loss of the necklace. But the burglar had vanished.

In the meantime Headquarters had telephoned to the Classon avenue police station, and an escort as one insignificant patrol wagon was hurriedly manned with the flower of the reserves and driven at breakneck speed to Washington Park.

One would have thought that a dangerous riot was about to be suppressed. When the residents of the park saw the bluecoats coming, however, they did not think of riots. They guessed at once that the invasion had something to do with the steel vault.

The policemen surrounded the house and stood with drawn clubs while a sergeant and body guard entered the premises to search the place. When they arrived at the cellar they soon found John Nelson, who was making himself as small as possible inside the coal bin. He had dropped the necklace among the coal.

He was dragged from his hiding place and marched off to the station, with an imposing escort as one insignificant housebreaker was ever honored with. But then, it is not every housebreaker who achieves fame by so nearly approaching the McLaughlin steel vault.

GREAT SPEED IN THE TRIAL OF THORN.

The Jury Quickly Completed, District Attorney Makes His Opening Address and Begins Taking Testimony.

Mr. Howe, by His Policy, Seems to Admit the "Corpus Delicti," for He Does Almost No Cross-examining—No Mention Made of Mrs. Nack, by Mr. Youngs, as a Witness—Thorn Will Accuse Mrs. Nack of Child Murder.

GREAT speed marks the progress of the trial of Martin Thorn, Judge Maddox, almost as much a "hustler" as Judge Smith, whom he succeeded as presiding Judge, has been aided wonderfully by Lawyer Howe's policy of non-interference. The defendant's attorney seems to admit that the body found dismembered is the body of William Guldensuppe; therefore he did almost no cross-examining of the witnesses yesterday, who told how the remains were found. The jury was completed early, and after the noon recess District-Attorney Youngs made his opening address and began with the testimony at once. In his speech he made no reference to Mrs. Nack as a witness, causing it to be suspected that he was planning a coup. Later, however, he said the woman would go on the stand.

Constantine Keehn, the barber to whom Thorn confided his enmity against Guldensuppe, will be a witness for the defence. He will tell that Thorn told him of many crimes committed by Mrs. Nack in her business. This, the defence hopes, will lead the jury to consider her as the actual murderer of Guldensuppe. It is expected Thorn will repeat his story told to Keehn to the jury.

AS JULIAN HAWTHORNE SEES THE TRIAL.

Preliminaries Over, Some Sensational Incidents Are Likely to Come Forth To-day.

By Julian Hawthorne.

Judge Maddox passed sentence of condemnation before court had been sitting five minutes yesterday morning, counsel on both sides cordially concurring, and the jury (what there was of it) not having been consulted. The culprit, however, was not Thorn, but the gas, which, according to Mr. Youngs, had been escaping for a week, menacing the life of everybody within smelling distance. The Judge's comments were very severe, and we hope the sentence of perpetual imprisonment may be summarily carried out.

Two new jurors were put in the box inside of twenty minutes, but after that we ran against snags and shalows. The questions put to all talesmen, according to the code, proceed so frequently from the mouth of the District-Attorney that the latter finds a good deal of difficulty in enunciating them in proper verbal order, constant repetition producing a species of paralysis. It would seem expedient to provide a phonograph near the witness chair, charged with these necessary interrogations, and leaving counsel free to deal with matters out of the deadly rut of routine. Indeed, the introduction of properly instructed phonographs into legal procedure would probably so lighten the labors of lawyers as to make them practically nothing more than laborers of love.

The episodes connected with this jury-hunting recur with very small

variations, though counsel, in self-defence, introduce whatever may relieve the monotony. Mr. Youngs makes a point of the physical stamina of the talesmen. "You think you could sit in a jury-box for two or three days without detriment to your health?" The optimism of Mr. Youngs as to the time likely to be consumed by the trial is perhaps designed to be contagious, the oystermen and farmers of the county being assumed to be ignorant of the extent of the law's delays. Mr. Howe, when other questions have been satisfactorily answered, injects with a tone and manner of infinite delicacy an inquiry as to whether the talesman be a married man. If the answer be in the affirmative, the lawyer proceeds to sound him as to the existence of possible prejudice against the prisoner on account of his immoralities with Mrs. Nack.

Abnormal Interest of Women.

It is at this point that the ladies in the gallery lean over and thirstily absorb the proceedings. Should the talesman profess himself indifferent, Mr. Howe becomes caressing in voice and bearing, and usually winds up by accepting the juror; but then Mr. Youngs is likely to rise, put his hands in his pockets, and ejaculate "Peremptory!" Whereupon Mr. Howe casts upon him a glance of greivous reproach, and sinks into his chair, and the Judge says, "Stand aside!" As a rule, the talesmen make shipwreck on the questions of circumstantial evidence and reasonable doubt. It is here that counsel can, if so disposed, contrive to dispose of an unwelcome candidate without resorting to a peremptory challenge. "If you should be sworn as a jurymen," says Mr. Howe, encouragingly, "you would require the

defendant to prove his innocence—wouldn't you?" In nine cases out of ten the talesman artlessly replies that he would. The District-Attorney, if he happens to want the man, puts the question in another form. "You know, don't you, that the law assumes the accused to be innocent until the State has proved him to be guilty?" "Yes, sir." "Well, then, you don't mean that you would require the accused to prove that he is what the law has already assumed him to be?" "No, sir." The fate of the talesman then depends upon the personal predilection of the counsel for defence, which usually excludes him.

The panel was exhausted at 12 o'clock, with eleven jurymen in the box, and the clerk began the calling for the new one. As has happened before, the first name pronounced—John Keefe—was that of a dead man. Death and disease seem to have an especial affinity for this murder trial. Omens prove nothing, but they sometimes affect the imagination nevertheless.

The Jury Box Fills.

By keeping doggedly at it till a quarter before 1, we succeeded in filling the last chair in the jury box, and the twelve men were sworn to do their duty. They are a good average jury, more nearly on a level of intelligence than the former one. No man among them seems much stronger or weaker than his companions. Two of the men—number five and number nine—resemble each other as closely as if they were twins; so that if the trial involved a question of personal identity, they would constitute an excellent illustration of the uncertainty of such evidence. The seventh juror, whom Thorn is said to dislike, looks like a very good man, but there is no ac-